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INFO RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT 3374  
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA 9577  
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 3990  
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 3853

C O N F I D E N T I A L TASHKENT 001828

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/23/2017  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [AMGT](#) [ODIP](#) [UZ](#)  
SUBJECT: POLOFF RECEIVES ACCREDITATION AND WARNING

REF: A. TASHKENT 1744  
[1](#)B. TASHKENT 1681

Classified By: Poloff Tim Buckley for reasons 1.4 (B, D)

[1](#)1. (C) On October 23 poloff was summoned to MFA for a rare personal appearance regarding his accreditation. MFA Protocol Head of Accreditations, Mr. Akhmedov, said the Ministry typically deals directly with LES on these issues "but, on occasion, it is necessary to personally explain the obligations of the card holder." Akhmedov drew a distinction between the MFA Americas Desk staff, who handle daily interaction with the Embassy, and the Protocol Section, "which has the right to request that diplomats respect the laws of Uzbekistan."

[1](#)2. (C) Akhmedov emphasized that the conduct of diplomats should "not damage their privileges" and that activities should likewise not "interfere with the internal affairs of the country, as sometimes is the case with certain diplomats." He then admonished poloff for travel to Bukhara and attempting to meet with local officials (reftels), despite the MFA's objection to both based on lack of accreditation (which was never relayed to post in its diplomatic note). Akhmedov also noted it was inappropriate for a second secretary to request a meeting with a hokim or deputy hokim (local mayors), which he likened to "an Uzbek third secretary going to California and demanding to meet with Arnold Schwarzenegger." He became increasingly animated and upset and added that this demonstrates the Embassy "is ignoring the laws and MFA's requests." He also described this as "damaging the mutual relationship."

[1](#)3. (C) Finally, Akhmedov presented poloff with the accreditation card for him and his family, and said he did not expect similar problems in the future. An MFA Americas Desk representative present at the meeting was quick to add that recent Embassy requests for meetings by diplomatic note were appropriate and productive. On the subject of visa type, Akhmedov said "it is not necessary" to obtain a D-1 visa instead of the D-2 visa that poloff and other staff recently received from the Uzbek Embassy in Washington and that "the accreditation card is what counts."

[1](#)4. (C) Comment: The admonishments were not surprising given that poloff was the subject of two previous diplomatic notes inappropriately complaining about Embassy activities outside of Tashkent. All members of the Pol/Econ Section are now accredited, as the MFA was aware that certain activities, such as the Law Enforcement and Security Assistance Working Group, would not proceed until accreditation was granted. The two-year D-2 visa, which is for temporary diplomatic staff, may leave the GOU with a technical excuse to restrict diplomatic activities in the future if the bi-lateral relationship deteriorates. End comment.

